

By Ron Morris

Sports Editor

Neal Haygood has been fired as varsity football coach at Wakefield High School. The action came Tuesday afternoon in a meeting between Haygood and Wakefield principal Thomas J. Cabelus Jr.

The Gazette learned of the action yesterday, and when reached by phone last night and asked if the story was true, Haygood confirmed the report. The loss of the football job, will not affect his position as a teacher at Wakefield.

Neal said he was fired because he did not have a



NEAL HAYGOOD

winning season this past year. "But, there was no warning before this happened. I was not told that I had to win or else, not told that it was required," Haygood stated.

He went on to say that Cabelus pointed out that football lost money this past year and that the school's athletic program depends on football revenue for success.

Haygood agreed in part that

Haygood Fired As V

a losing season was one reason not many fans turned out, but again he noted that bad weather on several game nights hurt as well as having to play afternoon contests. He added, that he felt some fans don't come due to sporadic crowd control problems at the games.

As for his future in coaching, Neal said he didn't know at this time whether he would try to stay in the field or not. "My aim is to teach. I was hired as a teacher and right now I plan to stay at Wakefield as a teacher."

Neal was named the War-

riors head coach on May 10, 1967, replacing Bill Edmondson, who left to go to Oakton. His appointment was made by Henry A. Renz, then principal at Wakefield. Haygood, 46, grew up and graduated from Okmulgee High School in Oklahoma. He continued his education at Lincoln Uni-

Wakefield Football

versity in Missouri where he played three years of football and four years of tennis. He was named to the All-Conference team in his junior year as a quarterback. He graduated in 1946.

Haygood went into private business for four year before beginning a teaching career

in 1950 in Oklahoma. During his four years in that state, he coached one football team to a state championship.

He came to the Arlington school system in 1954 teaching and coaching at Hoffman-Boston until 1964 when he moved to Wakefield. He was head basketball coach at Hoffman-

Boston his last two years there and won the VIA title in 1962-63. He also served as football coach and one team was undefeated and unscored on.

After coming to Wakefield, he coached the junior varsity basketball teams two years and the junior varsity football

Coach

team one. Neal holds a master's degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

In his four years as head coach, the Warriors posted an overall record of 14-25-1, his best season being in 1969 when Wakefield was 6-4 overall and 3-2 in the Potomac District.